

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-33 are pending. Claims 5-11, 14-27 and 30-33 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 and 2 are amended herein. Support for the amendments is found at pages 44-45 and throughout the application.

**Applicants Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102:**

Claims 1-4, 12, 13, 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Tan et al.** (U. S. Patent No. 6,001,706) (hereinafter “**Tan**”). In response thereto, applicants have amended claims 1 and 2 herein. Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter incorporated by the amendments is not disclosed in **Tan**.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants’ undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Application No. 10/823,729  
Attorney Docket No. 042341

Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.114  
Response Filed: May 30, 2006

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

**WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP**

  
Michael J. Caridi  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 56,171  
Telephone: (202) 822-1100  
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

MJC/mra